**Religious discrimination**

Carrie Prejean, the former Miss California, is suing K2 Productions, which runs the Miss California Beauty Pageant, as well as co-executive directors Keith Lewis and Shanna Moakler and publicist Roger Neal in Los

 Angeles Superior Court.  
  
[According to Fox News](http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,544922,00.html??test=faces), the grounds for the law suit are religious discrimination, emotional distress, and slander.  
  
Carrie Prejean's troubles began at the Miss USA Beauty Pageant when she was asked by one of the judges, gossip blogger Perez Hilton, whether or not she supported same sex marriage. Carrie Prejean replied that her religious beliefs compelled her to not support same sex marriage, though she meant no disrespect to anyone holding different views.  
  
The question and answer took place against a backdrop of bitter acrimony over the passage in California of Proposition 8, which defined marriage in that state as solely between a man and a woman. [Perez Hilton](http://www.associatedcontent.com/topic/50647/perez_hilton.html) was criticized for offering such a politically loaded question. Carrie Prejean got a firestorm of criticism (and much worse) and first runner up in the Miss USA Beauty Pageant.

Carrie Prejean had her crown as Miss California stripped from her for "breach of contract: as well as failure to attend scheduled appearances. Carrie Prejean, in her lawsuit, claims those grounds are false and that she is really being punished for her religious and political beliefs,

**The Ever Changing Minds of Humanity**

In recent years people have become more and more open to accommodate different beliefs and religions.   
  
For instance, atheists do not believe that the word "God" should be in the 'Pledge of Allegiance', because they do not want their children to say the word 'God' in school, because they do not believe in him. Even though everyone has been saying the pledge of allegiance without change since 1892.  
  
But because of one man's beliefs we should now, after 114 years change a part of our history? This is simply absurd.   
  
Another recent event was in Seatac, Washington this Christmas of 06. A Rabbi made a comment that he would like to see a [Hanukkah](http://www.associatedcontent.com/topic/22805/hanukkah.html) Menorah also displayed in the Seatac airport. Port officials told The [Seattle](http://www.associatedcontent.com/theme/625/seattle.html) Times "The Rabbi's lawyer had threatened to imminently file a lawsuit." In effect all of the [Christmas trees](http://www.associatedcontent.com/theme/1311/christmas_trees.html) in the Seatac airport were taken down.  
  
After receiving angry emails and being flooded with phone calls about the incident, the Rabbi, Elazar Bogomilsky told the port officials that he would not file a lawsuit. In response the port officials declared the [Christmas trees](http://www.associatedcontent.com/theme/1311/christmas_trees.html) be put back up.  
  
According to the Port of [Seattle](http://www.associatedcontent.com/theme/625/seattle.html) Commission President Pat Davis, "The rabbi never asked us to remove the trees; it was the Port's decision based on what we knew at the time. We very much appreciate the rabbi's willingness to work with us as we move forward."  
  
The port officials also decided that a Menorah will not be displayed this year. But the port spokesman Bob Parker stated that, "we look forward to sitting down after the first of the year with not only Rabbi Bogomilsky but others as well, and finding ways to make sure there's an appropriate winter holiday representation for all faiths. We want to find out a way to celebrate the winter holidays that is sensitive to all faiths."  
  
This whole incident was never about the trees, it is about belief, faith, and religion. Christmas is not solely about [Santa](http://www.associatedcontent.com/theme/1677/santa.html) and presents or trees, it is also about belief and faith.

# Atheism and Religious Discrimination: Atheists Excluded from Civil Rights Protections

*Atheism: Noun - 1 archaic: ungodliness, wickedness 2 a: a disbelief in the existence of deity b: the doctrine that there is no deity (Merriam-Webster.com)*  
  
It is telling that while Merriam-Webster is one of the most used collegiate dictionaries in the United States, the archaic version of the word atheism is printed before the modern definition. Because atheism is described as a lack of religion, it does not fall under the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Religious groups have dismissed atheists as immoral hedonists, a fringe group just crying out for attention, or people who simply don't "get it"; the sort of people that need help understanding their place in the world.  
  
Atheists are intentionally looked upon as being less American than their religious counterparts are, and find it prohibitively difficult to exercise their rights under the first amendment without ridicule, attain public office, join community service groups, or even arrange their final resting place in a manner in accordance with their beliefs and wishes. This discrimination against people without faith is damaging to American society, and should be added to the Mathew Shepard Act (Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007 or LLEHCPA), HR 1592 as a protected right.  
  
It is an assumed and publicly encouraged belief that the founders of the thirteen colonies had it in mind to create a Christian Society, free from the decadence and persecution of Old Europe. In fact, the movement was made in part as a denouncement of Catholicism, and the Protestant settlers practiced some especially vicious forms of persecution against their fellow settlers, the Quakers and the Catholics. Since the inception of our country religion has been used as a weapon, or as a means to measure a person's worth. It should be pointed out however that people are capable of being detrimental to society regardless of their religious views. Serial killer Dennis Rader (BTK Killer) was the congregational President of the Lutheran Church he attended, as well as a Cub Scout Troop Leader.